

A NEW SPECIES OF *CAPERONIA* (EUPHORBIACEAE)  
FROM PANAMA<sup>1</sup>

*Caperonia neglecta* Webster, sp. nov. (section *Caperonia*).

*Annua*, monoica, ca 2-5 dm alta; caulis inermis, ramosus, petiolis et foliis atque setulis glanduligeris atque trichomatibus hispidulis vestitis. *Folia* petiolata petiolisque 1.5-5 mm longis; stipulae lanceolatae, ciliatae, ca 1.5-4.5 mm longae; lamina plerumque elliptica, acuta, membranacea, ca 3-7 cm longa, 1-3 cm lata, basi obtusa vel rotundata, nervis secundariis rectis, margine serrulato. *Racemi* 1.5-3 cm longi, inferne 1-3 flores ♀ gerentes, ceterum flores ♂; bractee hispidulo-ciliatae. *Flos* ♂: lacinae calycis 5, inaequales, sparsim hispidulae; petala 5, manifeste inaequalia, longiora 3 ca 1.5-1.8 mm longa; stamina 10, biverticellata, antheris 0.3-0.4 mm longis; ovarii rudimentum rotundatum, ca 0.25-0.3 mm longum. *Flos* ♀: pedicellus hispidulus, 2.4-2.7 mm longus; lacinae calycis 5, subaequales, glanduligerae hispidulaeque, ca 1.5-2.2 mm longae; petala 5, subaequalia, exserta, anguste elliptica, 1.2-1.6 mm longa; ovarium hispidulum et glandulis fusiformibus vestitum; styli ca 1 mm longi, profunde 3-lobati. *Capsulae* 4.5-5.5 mm latae; semina fusca, 2.3-2.7 mm diam.

PANAMA. PANAMA: Camino del Boticario, nr Chepo, Pittier 4545 (holotype US); Tumba Muerto Rd. nr Panama City, Standley 29769 (US), 29815 (US).

This nondescript and apparently weedy species has remained undescribed for several years in the vain hope that a name could be found for it. The type collection was annotated by Käthe Hoffmann as *Caperonia palustris* (L.) St.-Hil.; and indeed all of the specimens have been misdetermined as that species. The plant does have a considerable superficial resemblance to *C. palustris*, due to its copious glandular pubescence and many-toothed leaf blades. However, it is sharply distinguished from that species by its pedicellate ribbed pistillate calyx, unequal male petals, entire pistillode, and hispidulous ovary. In some respects such as the hispidulous ovary and short inflorescence it resembles *C. paludosa* Kl., but it differs in its elongated stipules, copious glandular pubescence, and pedicellate pistillate flower. In some ways *C. neglecta* shows more resemblance to various African species such as *C. hirtella* Beille, but seems to differ from all of these in the combination of a pedicellate pistillate flower with 3-lobed styles and lanceolate stipules. The apparent restriction of *C. neglecta* to weedy habitats, together with its sporadic occurrence, suggests the possibility of its being a comparatively recent introduction; but if so, the original population in Africa appears not to have been detected thus far.—Grady Webster, University of California, Davis.

<sup>1</sup>I wish to acknowledge the generous assistance of Dr. A. Robyns in the preparation of the Latin descriptions.